3/31/71

Dear Howard,

Glad to get your 3/29 and enclosures, which I'll go over when I can, probably today.

May I begin with a couple of lectures (and thanks)?

First, knwoing, as you do, that we live in a corrupt society, it is time for you to adjust to the manifestations of the corruption. Not to accept them, but not to allow yourself to be too disturbed at this manifestation.

And second, on the losing of temper: there is a point at which not to do so comes accross as (and really is) unmanly. If I had not when I did, I've have been foreclosed. This meant more than appears, for what was aired is not much more than half of what was taped. One of the problems I face, for I know about clocks and was watching them, to which I will return, was to see to it that any dishonest editing, which I had to expect, would be as difficult to do in a way ruinous to me as possible.

These shows are taped in 15- minute segements, meaning that including openings, closings and commercials, the total of any segment is 15 minutes. Now I was in the sponsor's booth, wtaching on monitor and through the window. When I saw that the first segment, with Dwyer went more than 20 minutes, meaning a third had to come out, I realized what they were doing. They did the same with Huie. Now when I cam on, it had been agreed that I would use my equal time, which was only hald to begin with, having two to answer, for just response. I offered in adcance not to introduce anything new. Huie I think it was interrupted me on the second point I was addressing. They should have stopped him but didn't. I didn't feel like fighting Bandy needlessly, for he was great on the first two segments, only part of which you saw, and, as you realized, I had won him over the week befpre. Besides, I knew I'd have to fight, so why foght everybody unless you have to. And the thing that you have missed: Huie did to himself what I coukdn't have done to him. Why gild lillies? Or add sulphurs to skunks? For most of his tirades, I sat back and smiled, for I knew he was delivering the audience to me as he was defaming himself. Our reaction is that of the average person (don't underestimate the good sense of the people by judging their silence). As I recall it, the only time I blew, after long holding back, was when they were not letting me talk at all. What you don't know is that Bandy should have done this. The staff was singalling him like made, even went up to him during breaks. Because I didn t want to attack him, I went after Huie and Dwyer, and I think that on ballance it was a plus. What man in the audience would consider himself a man for taking that kind of shit in silence? Or what woman would consider her husband or boufriend a man if he did? While I'd have preferred cool, there was no real choice. And it does add drama. Also, remember those slanders. I sat still for much of this, and my answer was, I'm told, edited out.

Where Huie really blew, I doubt they aired it. He called me, Bud and even the audience klurers! Not that he is, from his association with Hanes. But I am, for demanding that society function, that therebe a trial. He hurt himself only.

The audiance was not of the left, as you guessed. Most of it was high-school, from a neabby school. And they flocked around me after the show-and not one went up to Huie or Dwyer. Only Gerold Frank, and even he came to argue and blab (very good, too. I think I can title that show "The Memohis Strangle", when I consider that Doubleday gave him a $100,000 advance for his mid-west Tobacco Road. Doubleday ought be sick about now. They know, saw and heard, you can be sure, what was edited out.

You apparently do not recognize the name, but Judge Dwyer is identical with chief Ray prosecutor Robert K. Dwyer. Only Foreman knows less about the case. You should hear what was edited out!

The earlier show, vs Hanes, was cool, because Hanes permitted it to be. I let him have it real quietly, and he soon got the idea that it could get hot, that I knew what I was talking about, and he joined me. Which is what gave the station the copout formula I had to fight.

Between the two, for the first time, I have turned some blacks on. It is too early to tell what the end result will be, if any. But it is an overdue start, and it does give you an evaluation of the shows. After the second I had a 1½hour phone call from a man in a minor capacity with a major black group. He is turned on and will try.

Not having seen the show, I can't tell you what you missed in the last five minutes. If you came in during Huie, you missed all of Dwyer, and he came right from Central Castings, a real caracature, even to the voice.

I see from your pregnancy crack that one of my quickies stayed in. Another, even when Bandy agreed after the staff insisted, went out. And didn't you hear my soto voce "fillibuster" comments? They had to be on the tape.

The station was worried, about government and about Foreman. So, they were not nice. I'm not surprised. And, on balance, I think a) the show was really mine, even as presented; and b) it will make many people think.

Clips: so, Clark remains a jellyfishwhore.

The others I'll have to file for when I can use. The Fisher I'll lay aside and read, probably today. Glad to get it. I don't think I have it.

Please do not be upset at what you regard as Huie's slanders. I think they were worse. But only those who were so convinced before he uttered these foul things would be persuaded. Sure, they are slanders or libels, but they hurt him, not me. He gave the whole thing a perspective nothing else could, to those who think, and I didn't interrupt him on them for this reason. I didn't even bother with the kluxer one. Why? The little time I had could be used to better advantage. And, my chief purpose was to prevent a whitewash. Can you imagine what it would have been had the two of them had it without any opposition?

Best,